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SUBJECT: Jordan Supports Global Fund Phase 2 Renewal

Ref: State 103678

1. Summary: Post recommends refel Phase 2 renewal of Jordan's grant under the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS in Jordan. The Global Fund grant has been utilized effectively and complements efforts made by the Government of Jordan (GOJ) and other donors to combat HIV/AIDS. Jordan's Country Coordinating Mechanism has a wide variety of participants and does an excellent job of coordinating and involving all partners. USAID was recently added to the Country Coordinating Mechanism. End summary.

Very Good Results in Several Areas

2. Jordan's grant under the Global Fund is JOR-202-G01-H-100. Phase 2 would be for \$705,300. Based on Jordan's effective performance so far in meeting the goals established for this grant, post recommends that the Global Fund continue to fully fund this project.

3. Jordan's HIV/AIDS program has achieved very good results in the following areas:

- 1) increasing information, communication and Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) throughout Jordan and especially for vulnerable groups;
- 2) establishing an HIV/AIDS surveillance system that includes high-risk behaviors;
- 3) improving care and support of people living with HIV/AIDS; and
- 4) maintaining a high level of blood safety, and exercising infection control in health care settings.

USAID and Contractor Have Complete Access

4. USAID has contracted with the NGO Family Health International (FHI) to provide technical assistance to Jordan for the implementation of the Global Fund grant. FHI has a seat on the Country Coordinating Mechanism and has been able to closely monitor the implementation of the Global Fund grant.

Global Fund Fills Gaps, Addresses Needs

5. Post feels Jordan's Global Fund National Plan is appropriate for its situation as a country with a low prevalence of HIV/AIDS. In particular, the Global Fund grant provided treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS that would otherwise not have been available, and thus effectively filled gaps in Jordan's National Strategy.

6. The Global Fund grant was implemented region by region, as planned, over the last eighteen months and now addresses most, but not all, of the planned target groups. One hundred percent of the people living with HIV/AIDS are covered by anti-retroviral treatment, and an adequate supply of safe blood has been maintained. Jordan's capacity to implement the grant has improved during the grant period in part because of the Global Fund's technical requirements, administrative requirements and overall guidance. Jordan has implemented its program in a timely manner and has met its performance requirements.

Country Coordinating Mechanism - Broad Based, Effective

7. The Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) successfully fosters coordination and cooperation between the Government of Jordan (GOJ), international donors, NGOs and the private sector. The Secretary General of the Ministry of Health heads the CCM, which has been expanded over the last six years to include several government ministries, NGOs including USAID-contractor Family Health International, the Chair of the UN Theme Group on AIDS, the World Health Organization representative, the private sector and, recently, USAID. The CCM meets at least four times a year and ad hoc as required. Post feels that the CCM plays an active and positive role in coordination, oversight, policy-making and outreach on HIV/AIDS, and that governmental bodies play an important but not overwhelming role in the

CCM.

18. The Ministry of Health, as Principal Recipient, can request organizations and sectors involved in HIV/AIDS to nominate new members to the CCM. Organizations can also ask to become members of the CCM, and those requests are usually approved if the organization is making a real contribution to HIV/AIDS work.

19. Post evaluation is that private sector participation, through the Jordan Medical Association, in the CCM is adequate but post feels that this aspect of the CCM could be enhanced. The CCM encourages and welcomes private sector participation but these efforts have borne little fruit so far. At a recent consultation on the National Strategy, participants identified expansion of private sector participation in the National Strategy as a priority goal. The private sector becomes more involved when individual projects are implemented.

10. A complete list of the organizations on the CCM follows:

- Ministry of Health (multiple departments)
- Red Crescent Society (NGO)
- UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)
- Jordan Association for Family Planning (NGO)
- University of Jordan (multiple departments)
- Royal Medical Services (government)
- National Blood Bank (government)
- Jordan Medical Association (private)
- IMPACT project/Family Health International (NGO)
- Jordan Food and Drug Administration
- USAID
- Jordan University for Science and Technology
- World Health Organization
- Jordanian Thoracic Association (NGO)
- Jordan Anti-TB Association (NGO)
- Annoor Sanatorium (NGO)
- Al-Basheer Hospital (government)

Political Support Strong - Ready to Face Sensitive Issues

11. There has been strong political support from both the Ministry of Health and from the Palace for combating HIV/AIDS and keeping Jordan a low prevalence country. The CCM recently convened a large stakeholders meeting to solicit feedback on a draft National HIV/AIDS Strategy Action Plan developed through widespread consultation with stakeholders. The Minister of Health will submit the final version of the Plan to the Prime Minister. The top-level approval by the Prime Minister for the National Action Plan is seen as formalizing the political support needed to publicly address socially sensitive issues such as stigma, male-male sex and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS.

Weaknesses Exist but Are Known and Being Confronted

12. While Jordan's capacity for combating HIV/AIDS is imperfect, post feels that the CCM has done a good job in identifying weaknesses, creating plans for correcting those weaknesses, and implementing those corrective measures. For example, the CCM identified Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of HIV/AIDS as an area that needed strengthening. As a result, USAID through Family Health International is assisting the GOJ in developing a high-quality M&E plan. Jordan had sufficient levels of technical expertise to implement its National HIV/AIDS Strategy Action Plan. Jordan also has placed a high priority in its work to date to strengthen its human and technical capacity to combat HIV/AIDS.

Success Stories: VCT, Peer Education

13. Jordan has had successes already in its work on HIV/AIDS. Specifically, with assistance from USAID, Jordan established Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) Centers in Amman and four other locations around Jordan. USAID also supported a successful peer education program at two Jordanian universities. Both the VCT centers and the peer education programs were an active collaboration between the Global Fund, the Ministry of Health, USAID and Family Health International.

Post Has Good Internal Capacity, Cooperation

14. Post has good internal capacity in its USAID offices on HIV/AIDS issues, and coordinates well between State and USAID. Post management has created an Embassy HIV/AIDS committee headed by the DCM. Working level members of the committee are currently developing a post-specific HIV/AIDS plan based on best practices from other embassies.

15. Embassy contacts for further information about Jordan's work on HIV/AIDS are Mr. David Piet (dpiet@usaid.gov) and Dr. Salwa Bitar Qteit (sqteit@usaid.gov).

16. Post acknowledges reftel heads-up on a short-fuse action request expected at the beginning of July to review Global Fund scorecard.

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